The Serpents Head Bruiſed.

Or a full Defence of

Mr. Richardſon

FROM THE

Aſperſions that have been lately caſt upon Him, in order to Ruin his Reputation: In a LETTER addreſſed to the Archbiſhops and Biſhops, and the whole Body of the Clergy.

In which are Inſerted,

Not only the Teſtimonials of the Lord Biſhop of *London* and Dr *Gooch*, &c. but the Certificates of the *Diſſenters* themſelves, (*viz.*) the Profeſſor of Divinity at the Univerſity of *Edinburgh*, and Dr. *Williams*, and other Eminent Presbyterian Teachers here in *England*: With a true Copy of an Affidavit made before the Lord Chief Juſtice *Parker*, and a true Account of his Tryal at the Palace in *Fulham*.

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by *William Richardſon* A. M. late a Diſſenting Teacher, and now a Miniſter of the Church of *England* and Chaplain to the Earl of *London-derry*.

They gaped upon me with their Mouths, and ſaid Fie on thee, Fie on thee, we ſaw it with our Eyes. Pſ. 35. v. 21

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TO THE

Most Reverend the Archbishops, Right Reverend the Bishops, and the rest of the Church of *England* Clergy, *William Richardson* wishes Increase of Grace, and all Spiritual and Temporal Blessings.

Fathers and Brethren,

WHEN it first pleased God out of his Infinite Mercy to enlighten me with a true Sense of my Duty, and bring me over from the Error of my ways, into the Bosom of his Primitive and Apostolical Church: I was not without Expectation of being unhandsomely Treated by the Enemies of that Faith which I had happily embraced, well knowing the Spirit of the Party, and after what manner the *Dissenters* are won't to deal with such

as Extricate themſelves out of the Snares of Ignorance and Deluſion. Nor was I in the leaſt deceiv'd, for I had no ſooner receiv'd Holy Orders in the regular Way, and been Invested with the Office I now bear, but I found my ſelf Attack'd from all Quarters, both in Print and otherwiſe on Account of my Conformity; In particular by one Mr. *Clark* a *Diſſenting* Teacher, whom I preſume my Anſwer has brought to a better Temper; and one *John Dunton*, a Brainleſs Writer to whoſe *Railing Accuſations* I make no other Reply, than in the Words of St. *Michael* to the Devil, *the Lord rebuke thee*; having been enjoin'd by the Wiſeſt of Men, *not to Anſwer a Fool according to his Folly leſt I alſo ſhould be like unto Him.* But when *falſe Witneſſes riſe up againſt me, and Things are laid to my Charge which I know not*; When Recourſe is had to the moſt flagrant Untruths and Fictitious Crimes take upon them the Reſemblance of real Enormities; When Forgeries are made Uſe of for want of Facts, and Calumny ſupplies the Place of Argument, 'tis

the

then High Time to diveſt my ſelf of that Indolence which I am naturally ſubject to, in Matters of Defamation, and acquit my ſelf in the Eye of a Licentious and Cenſorious World, which I truſt by the Help of the Almighty I ſhall be able to do.

To have the Wife of my Boſome torn from me, only becauſe I am happily receiv'd into the Arms of Chriſts immaculate Spouſe the Church, to be laden with Debts thro' the means of Her Separation, becauſe I *came out from among* Sciſmaticks and *Diſſenters*, and would not be *Partaker of the Iniquities* of a falſe Worſhip; to be liable to the Eternal Vexations and Malicious Contrivances of a Cruel and Unjuſt Mother in Law, for no other Reaſon, than my giving way to the Voice of God, ſpeaking to me by his Prophets and Apoſtles to pay my Adoration to his Divine Majeſty with Decency and Order, are Things, hard, very hard, to be born with: But to have that Sacred Order Wounded thro' my Sides, which you are ſuch Illuſtrious and Shining Ornaments of is moſt intol-

lerable.

lerable. Therefore, tho' I have hitherto *held my Tongue and kept silence*, while it was *Pain and Grief* so to do, out of a just Deference to the Commands of the *Psalmist*, who bids me not to *Fret my self because of the Ungodly*, I find my self under a necessity of Vindicating my self, from those Ungenerous and base Aspersions that are cast upon me, by the Scavingers of a Party that will never be entirely Ruined, till they are forbid the Use of Dunghills, which furnish them with Diet sufficient for their Ill Purposes.

Now the Method I shall take in this my Defence, is in the first Place, to lay before you some Testimonials of my Behaviour while I continued in Communion with the *Dissenters*, and Secondly and Lastly, to Purge and Clear my self of the Criminal Accusations they have loaden me with, since my Conformity with the Church Establish'd: To begin with the first.

As it was my Unhappiness to be Bred up in the Calveniftical Persuasions, so I could not but think it highly conducive to my future Instruction, to leave *Ireland* the Place of my Nativity,

Nativity, where that Religion was only Tolerated and had no Publick Seminaries of Learning to Implant it, for *Scotland* where it was Eſtabliſhed. In order to this, I ſettled my ſelf in the Univerſity of *Edinburgh*, the Capital of that Kingdom, where I tarried till ſuch Time, as I thought fit to remove for *England*, after I had receiv'd ſufficient Experience of the Learning and Humanity of that Wiſe Body. How I demean'd my ſelf during my Behaviour among them, may be ſeen by the following Certificate from the Profeſſor of Divinity.

" THESE are to Teſtifie that " the Bearer hereof Mr. *William* " *Richardſon*, Student in Divinity " from *Ireland* attended the Theolo- " gical Hall here in *Edinburgh* ſeveral " Months this Year diligently, be- " haved blamelesly, and beſides other " more private Tryals he had a *Homely* in the Hall, in which he was ap- " proven. I recommend Him to any " of the Reverend Miniſtry with " whom he may Converſe, for En- " couragement in his Studies. This

" is

"is Written and Subscribed at *Edin-*
"*burgh* the 13*th*, of *July*, 1708,
By me Mr. *George Meldrum*.

I am not vain enough to give a Narrative of my Life, from the Time I left *Scotland*, till the time I took upon Me the Office of a Teacher, in the Way I had been Educated; only this may be observed, That had I been Indued with those Vicious Inclinations my Enemies would deceive the World into the Belief of, it would have been highly probable I should have given Vent to them by some false Step or other, especially, when I was of an Age that is most liable to Temptations, and not Circumscribed with such strict Bounds of a Regular and Austere Life, as those in Holy Orders are confined to.

I presume few that are rightly acquainted with them, will give into the Belief that their Compassion towards me upon any Account, has hindred their Enquiries in Relation to Male Practices of this Nature; especially when their Inveteracy of Temper has since led them into the very

Privacy

Privacy of my Family Retirements.

But to uſe all poſſible Brevity, ſo far was I from being charg'd with any of the Levities of Youth, or Indiſcretions that uſually keep Company with Men that have made ſmall Advances in Age; that I found my ſelf very much in the Good Graces of the moſt Sober amongſt them, when I firſt got into my New Brethrens Acquaintance, and both Preachers and Elders thought me not unworthy of their Friendſhip and Acquaintance. Inſomuch, that after a little longer State of Probation, wherein I acknowledge with all Gratitude, great Helps from ſeveral Learned Men (for how defective ſoever they are in Principle they are not wanting in Underſtanding) I was thought worthy of exerciſing the Paſtoral Charge, and had my Credentials for that intent, as may be ſeen by the following Certificate.

'WE, whoſe Names are ſubſcribed, the Paſtors of Churches, and Miniſters of the Holy Goſpel, do certifie all that ſhall read this Writing, that *William*

'*Richardſon* Maſter of the Liberal
'Arts in the College of *Edinburgh*,
'having ſucceſsfully gone through a
'Courſe of Philoſophical Studies, ap-
'plied Himſelf to us, being well fur-
'niſh'd and recommended by the
'*Teſtimonies* of Perſons that are Cre-
'dible, concerninghis Learning, Sound-
'neſs in *Doctrine*, and *Life*, conforma-
'ble to the Rule of the Goſpel. And
'after having given ſeveral Proofs of
'his Aptneſs to Teach, and the Ex-
'erciſe of his Gift in Preaching to the
'Edification of the Hearers, was ſo-
'lemnly called to the Office of a
'Paſtor, and this Day, with Prayers,
'Faſting, and laying on of Hands,
'was ſet apart to the aforeſaid Office
'of a Paſtor, and regularly ordained
'a Miniſter, whom we have Autho-
'rized to teach the Holy Scriptures
'in the Publick Aſſembly of Chri-
'ſtians, to Adminiſter the Sacra-
'ments of the Goſpel, and exerciſe
'Church Diſcipline (according to the
'Order of the Reformed Churches,
'and the Form of our Government.)
'Laſtly, we have given him theRight
'Hand of Fellowſhip: Therefore we

'hear-

'heartily recommend Him to all 'Paſtors of Churches, and the Faith-'ful in Chriſt as a lawful Miniſter of 'the Word of God, and with fervent 'Supplications, implore an abundant 'Bleſſing from the Almighty upon 'Him, and his pious Labours in the 'Vineyard of Chriſt his Lord and 'Maſter.

London, *dated the* 19th *of* December 1709.

Daniel Williams.
Daniel Wilcocks.
John Evans.
William Loremer.
Robert Billio.

As the Perſons abovewritten make no ſmall Figure amongſt the *Diſſenters*, eſpecially the Firſt, whom one of the Univerſities of *Scotland* have diſtinguiſh'd by a Preſent of a Doctorate in Divinity, ſo it is but natural to conclude from hence, how invalid ſoever I think their Ordination, that there is but little Room for my Quondam Brethren the *Diſſenters*, to cenſure my Conduct thus far, tho' I muſt always lament it my ſelf, as a State of Separation from that Church,

which I ſome time after was happily admitted into.

To proceed, in Purſuance of the Duty I had undertaken to diſcharge, I ſet my ſelf ſeriouſly at Work, to give my conſtant Attendance upon ſuch as committed themſelves to my Care, in *Ailsbury-Chappel* near *Clerkenwell-Green*, which I rented for that Purpoſe, and which brought me in ſuch Encouragement for the continuance of my Labours after the *Presbyterian* Method, that had not higher Motives prevailed with me to quit that Communion, than Temporal Intereſt, I had not been ſubjected to the Inconveniencies and Preſſures which I now ſink under. But it pleaſed God, while I was buſied in inſtilling *Antinomian* Principles into others, to give me a right Knowledge of his Law, and to make me ſee and embrace *the Things that belong'd to my Peace.* The indirect Meaſures that were daily taken againſt the Church of Chriſt, and the repeated outcries of the *Rabſhekas* of the Faction, againſt the Supreme Magiſtrate, in giving Vent to the Doctrines of Reſiſtance of Princes,

put

put me upon enquiries into the Truth and Legality of ſuch Poſitions. Nor did I fail of full Satisfaction in this Point, from the ſeveral bright Luminaries of the Church Eſtabliſh'd, ſuch as Biſhop *Sanderſon*, the Lord Archbiſhop of *York*, &c. So that being convinced of the ill Tendency of ſuch Opinions, not only from the Light of Revelation and Reaſon, but the Practice of thoſe very Primitive Chriſtians themſelves, whom the *Diſſenters* of all Kinds profeſs themſelves exact and ſtedfaſt Paterns of; I fell of Courſe into other Diſquiſitions, as the Unlawfulneſs of Separation from that Church, which has Chriſt for its Head, who has delegated the Care of it to an uninterrupted Succeſſion of Biſhops, *&c.* and the invalidity of Orders that are given by Anti-Epiſcopalians, wherein I had likewiſe all the Doubt's removed that could occur upon theſe Heads.

Hereupon, after humbling my ſelf before the Divine Majeſty, for ſo long and wilful an Obſtinacy, which I had been involved in, and imploring the Aſſiſtance of his Grace, to go through with the Reſolutions I had taken of

delivering

delivering my ſelf from the Body of Sin, which had encompaſſed me round, I wean'd my ſelf from all Worldly Cares, and Maugre the Solicitations of a begotted Family, choſe rather ro Divorce my ſelf from a very plentiful Support, from a Mother and Wife, whom amidſt all the Injuries I receive on their Account, I ſhall have all poſſible Reſpect and Affection for; and from all the outward Enjoyments of this Life, which n Man of any Moderate Deſires could be Ambitious of; ſince from that Time forward. I may have emphatically be ſaid to have *taken up Chriſts Croſs, and follow'd Him, Not that I ſpeak in reſpect of Want: For I have learned in whatſoever State I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abaſed, and I know how to abound: Every where and in all Things I am inſtructed, both to be full, and to be Hungry, both to abound, and to ſuffer Need*; But I ſpeak in reſpect of Caſualties, infinitely more Afflicting and Vexatious, and of the Wounds, that I bear in my Reputation, the Tongues that *Shoot out their Arrows, even bitter Words, to the great Diſcomfort of my Soul.*

Soul. For though I, according to the Commands of our Bleſſed Lord and Maſter, would have joy'd to leave all Things *to be his Diſciples*, yet Thanks be to God, for the Mercies he was pleaſed to vouchſafe to them, I was not forſaken by ſuch as had thought me Worthy of being their Teacher and Inſtructor, and *over whoſe Souls the Holy Ghoſt*, afterwards by a Regular Ordination *made me* a lawful *Overſeer.*

Theſe turn'd Proſelytes with me in great Numbers, and I had the Satisfaction not only of bringing over the greateſt Part of my former Congregation, whereof *Thirty Six* at one Time receiv'd the Benefit of Confirmation from the Hands of the Lord Biſhop of *London*, but of increaſing it by the Acceſſion of ſeveral New Hearers, ſome of which were Perſons of no mean faſhion and Diſtinction. But while I, like the Sower in the Parable *was ſowing the Word, which brought forth Increaſe upon good Ground, Thirty Fold, Sixty, and a Hundred Fold*, Satan, the Father of Lies, took upon Him to defeat the Deſign of my Labours, by doing

doing the ſame with that of Falſhood; which multiplied itſelf to ſuch a Degree, as almoſt choak'd my Harveſt up. For it was no ſooner made Publick, that I was a Convert to the eſtabliſh'd Church, but the Zealots, whoſe Communion I had left, beſtirr'd themſelves ſo virulently, that it required no Spirit of Divination to foreſee that I ſhould be the Mark of their Hatred for their Time to come. *Weather-Cock*, *Falſe Brother*, *Apoſtate*, and *Renegade*, were the ſofteſt Appellations I was thenceforward to go by, and a poor Madman, (ſo had their Fury blinded my infatuated Adverſaries) was pick'd up, as a Perſon all together equal to ſo cleanly an Office, as that of Beſpattering a Clergyman, with the blackeſt Abſurdities and Accuſations. Not but I was even endebted to their Malice, and might be ſaid to enjoy the very Effects of it, for the Stories were ſo ill told, that they came not ſo much as to a bare Probability, and the ſubject Matter of them, was ſo indifferently handled, eſpecially, what relates to my concerns with my Mother-in-Law, and poor de-

deluded Wife, that the leaſt Application to my Neighbours at *Lambeth*, will inſtantly ſhew what a ſorry Tool of a Slanderer, that wretched Scribblers is, and how deſtitute of Politicks as well as Chriſtianity thoſe are, that employ Him. I would not be thought here to ſuſpect the Reverend Graduate, to whom that wild Pamphlet is Inſcrib'd, of giving any Encouragement to it; or give a Handle to the leaſt Surmiſe, that I mean any of thoſe Learned Gentlemen, who ſubſcribed their Names to the Certificate, which I have given the Words of) by *thoſe that employ Him*) becauſe it is next to an Impoſſibility, that Men of ſuch bright Underſtandings ſhould ſo very ſoon forget the Character they there give of me, or Perſons of ſo tenacious Memories and unerring Judgments, in ſo ſhort a Time depart from their former Aſſertions, nay even forfeit the Opinion that is had of themſelves, by not abiding by what they gave concerning me.

Be this, as the World, or they are pleas'd to have it. How weak ſoever the Scheme was, and how ſhallow the

Foundation of the whole Contrivance, Succeſs was not wanting to Stamp a ſort of Authority upon it, and this enervated Inſtrument of Scandal, that like Old *Priam*'s *Telum imbelle ſine Ictu* made no Impreſſion upon me, had its Ends upon others, and made way for a more dangerous Attempt againſt me. *Fling Dirt enough*, ſays the Adage, *and ſome will Stick*; this was verify'd in other Attempts againſt me: For after my Enemies had withdrawn my Wife from me, by the Means of their Teachers, who inform'd Her, that it was unlawful to Cohabit with a Man that acted contrary to their Ordinances, after they, had not only made Her break Her conjugal Vow, (which I beg of that Omnipotent Being, in whoſe Preſence it was made to forgive Her,) but Work'd up Her Mother to ſuch a Pitch of Hatred, as to make her Study all Manner of Methods to undo me; In a Word, after they had loaded me with the Sin of Drunkenneſs, which never took Air, or was ſo much as heard of, while I continued among them; and charged me with Debts that were all together un-

unknown to me, the grand Deceiver of Mankind, put it into their Heads, to try another Stratagem, and accuſe me of a Crime, which I a little dream'd of being called in Queſtion for, The Sin of Uncleanneſs, for which *the very Abjects came together againſt me unawares, making Mouths at Me, and ceaſed not.*

How they perpetrated this unprecedented Act of Villany, was publickly proclaim'd in every Street by their Emiſſaries, who put me in Print, that *the baſie Mockers gnaſh at me with their Teeth*; And how thoſe Falſhoods were received, is but Notorious. *Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my Heart by my ſelf; for I went with the Multitude, and I brought them forth into the Houſe of God*; When I reflect within my ſelf, who they are, that have done me this great Miſchief, I cannot but ſay with the *Pſalmiſt*; *It is not an open Enemy that hath done me this Diſhonour, for then I could have born it: Neither was it mine Adverſary, that did Magnifie himſelf againſt me, for then, Paradventure I would have hid my ſelf from Him*; *But it was even Thou my Companion, my Guide, and mine own familiar Friend; We took*

ſweet Counſel together, and walk'd in the Houſe of God as Friends; The very Perſon who had invited me to Bed and Board, there to have Lodging and Diet for ſome time Gratis, till I was in a Capacity of providing better for my ſelf.

The Matter of Fact runs thus. One Mr. *Lun* a *Saleſman* in *Smithfield-Market*, that had been a Contributor towards my Support from my firſt Conformity to the Church, ſeeming to take pitty of my Misfortune, in being ſeperated from the Reſt of my Family, made an Offer to me upon the Conditions juſt mention'd, but with this Proviſo, that his Wife was to know nothing of it, which I readily cloſed with, and thankfully accepted. But I had not been long upon theſe Terms, before ſhe was apprizd of them, which made her endeavour to give me all the Uneaſineſs imaginable in order to get rid of me, and continue in that very Diſpoſition, tho without any other effect, than the Tryal of my Patience, till the Stratagem about the Woman of ill Fame actually diſlodged me. It happened after this Manner, on *Saturday* Night between the *Fifteenth* or *Sixteenth*

A

August, I heard an Uproar in the Houſe, about a Woman that was got into it, and ſaid to come down from my Chamber. The Woman it ſeems was ſent to *Bridewell* that Night, and the next Morning carried before Juſtice *Fuller*, where ſhe ſaid, according to what had been before concerted, that I had brought her into the Houſe, been actually in Bed with Her, given Her Money, *&c.* with abundance of other Paſſages, unworthy the Notice of Chaſt Ears. Next Morning being *Sunday*, I went likewiſe to Mr. *Fuller*, at the Deſire of Mr. *Lun*; who ſaid, if you will go with us (meaning his Wife, Maid, *&c.*) we ſhall believe you Innocent, and there Mrs. *Coſins* the Miſtreſs of the Houſe, for I was but a Lodgers Lodger, *Eleanor Kirk*, and the others appear'd againſt me, in order, if poſſible to render me Criminal. The moſt material Part of which was, that a *Frenchman* had given them Notice, that I had carried a Leud Perſon into the Houſe, and that they found the Woman in it, in an undreſs'd Poſture; to which they added their Queſtions, with her Anſwers, which were equally Offenſive to Good Man-

Manners. There is no Room to doubt, but I was ſurprized at ſuch an unparalell'd piece of Effrontery, and expoſtulated with my Accuſers on this Occaſion, but is ſignified nothing, their Foreheads were too hard for Me, and bore me down with a Vehemence of Utterance, peculiar to People, that were reſolv'd to make Good their Aſſertions, Right or Wrong: So that I put the Iſſue into the Hands of God, not doubting, but in his good Time he would provide Means to clear up my Innocnce. Accordingly, after I had born with all the Invectives that could be made uſe of, by an enraged Party, and all the Clamours it was poſſible, for ſo flagrant an Inſtance of Forgery to raiſe, which ended in Orders, from my Right Honourable and Right Reverend *Dioceſan*, to forbear exerciſing the Duties of my ſacred Function, till I ſhould acquit my ſelf of the horrid Impieties that were laid to my Charge, it pleaſed God to turn the Heart of the wicked Wretch in *Bridewell*, that was ſuborn'd againſt me, to give me Notice of Her Sorrows for what ſhe had done, and Her deſires to make me what Recompence

lay

lay in her Power. Accordingly ſhe was carried up to the Lord Chief Juſtice *Parker*'s Chambers in *Serjeants-Inn* by her Keeper, where ſhe made Oath before his Lordſhip, in the following Words.

'ELEANOR KIRK, of the 'Pariſh of St. *Bridgets*, alias 'Brides, Spinſter; maketh Oath, that 'on or about the Nine in the Evening, 'the *Fifteenth* Inſtant, as ſhe this De'ponent was diſcourſing with a cer'tain Man in *Newgate-ſtreet*, and 'they, ſeeing a Clergyman paſſing by, 'whoſe Name this Deponent ſince has 'been given to underſtand, is *William* 'Richardſon. She this Deponent was 'prevail'd upon by the Perſon afore'ſaid, whom ſhe was in Diſcourſe 'with, by the Promiſe of a certain 'Reward, to follow the ſaid Clergy'man, whitherſoever he went, as if 'he had pick'd Her up, he aſſuring 'to follow them at a Diſtance, and 'ſo to manage the whole Deſign, as 'ſhould tend to both their Advanta'ges: And this Deponent further 'ſaith, ſhe accordingly followed the

'ſaid

'ſaid Mr. *Richardſon*, till ſuch Time
'as ſhe ſaw Him lift up a Latch of a
'certain outward Door in *George*'s
'Court, and perceiving how eaſily
'the ſaid Door was open'd, ſhe this De-
'ponent ſome little Time after opened
'the ſaid Door, and enter'd into the
'ſaid Houſe, and perceiving the ſaid
'Mr. *Richardſon* going by Himſelf
'up Stairs, this Deponent took her
'Opportunity, and ſlip'd up Stairs
'after Him, and having followed the
'ſaid Mr. *Richardſon* Two Pair of
'Stairs, and finding the Doors lock'd,
'ſhe waited on the Stairs in Expecta-
'tion of ſeeing what Uſe the Gen-
'tleman with whom ſhe before con-
'verſed with, had, or would make
'of her thus following the ſaid Mr.
'*Richardſon* into the Houſe aforeſaid:
'And this Deponent further ſaith,
'that in ſome little Time after, the
'Houſe being alarm'd by the afore-
'ſaid Gentleman, and ſhe failing in
'Her Deſigns againſt the ſaid Mr.
'*Richardſon*, and fearing ſhe ſhould
'be taken into Cuſtody, as a Perſon
'having an Intention to Rob the ſaid
'Houſe, ſhe this Deponent did there-

'upon

' upon endeavour to Eſcape, but was
' prevented: And this Deponent fur-
' ther ſaith, that the better to carry on
' this contrivance againſt Mr. *Richard-*
' *ſon*, and to make a Penny of him,
' did affirm the ſaid Mr. *Richardſon*
' did pick Her up with Intent to take
' this Deponent to his Lodgings; and
' this Deponent further ſaith, that
' upon this Affirmation ſhe was taken
' into Cuſtody, and divers Times ſince
' received Money from ſeveral Per-
' ſons to Her unknown, and particu-
' larly from the Landlord and Land-
' lady of, and others in the ſaid Houſe,
' to encourage Her to perſiſt in what
' ſhe had affirmed againſt the ſaid
' Mr. *Richardſon*, but deſigning on-
' ly to make a Penny of Him as afore-
' ſaid, ſhe maketh Oath, that ſhe
' this Deponent was not *deſired nor*
' *encouraged by Mr.* Richardſon, *to*
' *follow Him into the Houſe aforeſaid,*
' *or to go up Stairs*, nor was ſhe this
' Deponent *in any Chamber*, with the
' ſaid Mr. *Richardſon*, ſave, when
' *ſhe was brought in by the Miſtreſs, and*
' *others of the ſaid Houſe.* And laſt-
' ly this Deponent ſaith, that ſhe

' this Deponent never did directly nor
' indirectly know the Name or Perſon
' of the ſaid Mr. *Richardſon*, or had
' any Talk or Diſcourſe with him
' whatſoever, till after the Time of
' this Deponents being taken as afore-
' ſaid, and further ſaith not,

Jurat. 22. *Die Auguſti* 1712. *Coram, Mr.* T. Parker.

The Mark * of

Eleanor Kirk.

Nothing could be more full and expreſſive than the foregoing Affidavit, but as my Adverſaries were deaf to all Convictions, ſo in ſpight of theſe Proofs of my Innocence, and in Oppoſition to all Chriſtian Practices, they not only charged me with ſuborning this Leud Woman, whom they themſelves had before bribed to accuſe me, but by the Force of Money, prevail'd with Her, once more to take another Oath, by which ſhe retracted all that ſhe before ſwore to, in the Preſence of the Lord Chief Juſtice. An Argument ſufficient of it ſelf, to ſhew, what little Credit ought to be given to a Cauſe, that ſupports itſelf by the means

means of a Perſon of ſuch an ill Fame, and what hard Fate that Clergyman lies under, whoſe Life and Converſation muſt be blaſted by, and whoſe ſacred Office and Character muſt be held in Deriſion, by the Means of a Common Proſtitute, that bluſhes not to add the Sin of Perjury to her other ſcandalous Envaſions of Juſtice and Honeſty.

In the mean Time, while theſe Deeds of Darkneſs were in Agitation, and others, who made Poſſeſſions of the greateſt Friendſhip to me had worm'd themſelves into the Poſſeſſion of my Tenure in *Ailsbury-Chappel*, which brought me in a very comfortable Subſiſtence, I was reduced to the laſt Extremity, through the Unreaſonableneſs of ſome real Creditors, and ſome pretended, who made uſe of my very Exigencies, as ſo many Motives to demand Money of me. Amongſt the latter, my Landlord, had charg'd me with the Diet and Lodging, which he had promis'd to maintain me in for a much longer Time, than I ſtay'd with Him, for I took my leave of Him, and the Houſe he liv'd in, the Moment I found Him

to be the Man he appears to be. But my Lord of *London*, out of regard to my Sufferings, and the Difficulties I labour'd under, was pleas'd to fix a Day, both for me and my Accusers, to appear before Him, at which Time it was given out by the Faction, the *French Man* would be at the Pallace of *Fulham*, the Place appointed for that Purpose, and be confronted with me Face to Face. It was my desire, that the Strumpet might have been brought thither also, but Care was taken to keep Her from Sight, least she should make a further Discovery, how she had been tamper'd with; Neither was any such Person as the *French Man* to be there, because it was their Business, either to put off the Hearing of the Cause to a longer Day, or keep the Matter in Dispute, which would still remain Dubious, by the Means of that Non-Entities not appearing, from being fully clear'd up. But instead of that imaginary Being, they brought Persons that were very far from being Phantosms, for Writs were issued out against me, and one

M----

M- -y a *Bailiff* was brought from his Houſe in *Drury-Lane*, with his Aſſiſtants, to hinder me from making my Defence, ſo unable were they to make out the Articles againſt me, and ſo ſenſible of their Inſufficiency upon that Head. Tho' his Lordſhip upon my Application to Him, from my Quarters at the *Queen's-Arms*, where I was preparing my ſelf to attend Him, was ſo condeſcending as to render that Plot Abortive, by ſending Mr. *Keys* to the Officer, to acquaint Him, that I was to have free Ingreſs and Regreſs upon the Account I came thither, and was not to be moleſted at any ones Peril: Upon which I had the Liberty to Vindicate my ſelf before that truly Apoſtolical Biſhop, who after a full Hearing of what was Alledg'd for and againſt me, wherein the Inveteracy of my Accuſers diſplay'd itſelf to the Utmoſt, as well as my Innocence, was pleas'd to determine in my Favour, as may be ſeen by the following Letter, directed to Mr. *Charlton*, Chaplain to Her Grace the Dutcheſs of *Ormond*, by Dr. GOOCH my Lord

of

of LONDON's Chaplain, who was then preſent.

SIR,

MR. *Richardſons* Cauſe was this Day heard before my Lord of *London*, and it appears to me, from the Beginning to the End, to be a wicked and malicious Contrivance to Blacken and Ruine an Innocent Men: He deſires that I would ſignifie thus much to you, under my Hand, which I very readily comply with, and am,

SIR,

Your moſt Humble Servant,

Thomas Gooch.

This is a true Coppy of the Letter ſent to me by Dr. Gooch, *Witneſs my Hand. this* 5th *of* September, 1712.

William Charlton.

But

But if the Teſtimonial of ſo Good, Reverend and Learned a Man as the Doctor, is not enough to convince the World, how I have been dealt by, I ſhall beg leave to make uſe of the Words of a much greater Perſonage, my Judge and Maſter, who upon my Humble Application to Him for a Recommendatory Letter to Lieutenant General ECKLIN, did me the Honour to write this in my Favour.

SIR,

I Deſire you would prevail with my Lord *Treaſurer*, to recommend the Bearer hereof Mr. *Richardſon*, to Her Majeſty as a proper Object of Her Charity: He has been violently perſecuted and aſpers'd, chiefly for his Conformity to the Church, by Perſons diſaffected to Her Majeſty, and has been put to great Charges, and brought

brought into great Streights, by a neceſſary Defence of Himſelf.

SIR,

I am,

Your moſt Humble Servant,

H. London.

This is a true Copy of my Lord Biſhop of London's *Letter to me. Witneſs my Hand this* 31ſt *Day of* November. 1712.

Robert Eckſin.

But as ſome Particulars of the Cauſe which is ſaid to be heard by his Lordſhip, in the Reverend Doctors Letter may be thought neceſſary, ſo I ſhall ask the Favour, to declare that when the pretended Witneſſes againſt me, who were but very few in Reſpect of thoſe that appear'd for me

me, who were Numerous, were interrogated what ſort of Man the *French-Man* was, that was ſo material an Evidence, and whom they would have compaſs'd Sea and Land, to have produced; It was anſwer'd by one that he was a *Fair* Man, by another *Black*, by a Third *Short*, by a Fourth *Tall*, &c. So that their very Contradictions as to that Point were ſufficient to atteſt my Innocence. Not, that other very ſtrong Motives were wanting to induce my moſt impartial Judge to clear me, who, notwithſtanding his great Age, and the importunate Clamours of a Man of Eſtate and Diſtinction, (tho' the only one of that Quality, that took upon Him to be a MANAGER of ſuch a Nature,) heard that Gentleman declaim againſt Me with extreme Patience; and not only Me, but the Doctrines of the Church it ſelf, when he and the reſt of my Accuſers had entangled themſelves beyond the Poſſibility of any Diſengagement. I ſhall not here Publiſh the Name of that Perſon, in hopes of his ſincere

Repentance and Acknowledgment before God, of the Injury he has done me. For, as to my own Part, I not only very freely forgive Him, but ſhall offer up my daily Prayers for Him, in Remembrance of ſome good Offices he has done me, and of his conſtant Communion with me, before this Breach, which I truſt in God, I gave no Handle for. Since I had not only been the moſt profligate Wretch, that was then breathing, but the moſt deſtitute of common Senſe, had I been ſo abandon'd to a depravity of Morals and Reaſon, as to have firſt held Diſcourſe with a Leud Woman, in the Habit I have the Honour to wear, and at ſo Publick a Time, when there was a great concourſe of People going *To* and *Fro*, as there is always at the Hour of Nine at Night, and afterwards to have brought her Home to my own Lodgings. I appeal to my Accuſers themſelves, whether this is conſiſtent with the Thoughts they once had of Me, how eſtrang'd ſoever they may now be from their former Opinion,

nion, and whether they did not lay their Scheme was very ill projected that after ſo impracticable a Manner.

To go on with my Narrative, after I had purg'd my ſelf before my Right Reverend, and Right Honourable Judge, in ſo Publick a Manner, and made the Miſts my Enemies had rais'd to caſt a Damp upon my Reputation, *paſs away as the Morning Cloud*; After my Lord of *London* had declared me Guiltleſs in full Court, and reſtored me to my former Liberty of Preaching God's Word, and Adminiſtring his Holy Sacraments; After Malice was defeated, and my Enemies that wiſh'd me Evil without a Cauſe, were put to Confuſion; I had nothing to do, but to repoſſeſs my ſelf of my former Charge, which I ſome time after did, tho' not in the ſame Place, which I had been accuſtom'd to perform Divine Service in. How I came to be diſpoſſeſs'd of *Ailsbury-Chappel*, is beſt known to thoſe that were concern'd in my Removal. I wiſh the preſent Incumbent Twice the Advantage I receiv'd from it, and far greater Suc-

ceſs in bringing over Proſelytes to the Church; tho' I cannot ſay, that I there labour'd in Vain, or that vain were my Hopes of a plentiful Harveſt. Yet my Mouth muſt ſpeak out of the Abundance of my Heart, and diſcharge itſelf of a complaint or two, as that I was not ſuffer'd to give my Attendance, in looking after God's Vintage with ſuch Aſſiduity, as I always thought inſeparable from the *High Calling, whereunto we are Called.* For thoſe that had taken ſo much Pains to load me with Calumny and Suppoſititious Crimes, now made it their Endeavour to Burthen me with Debts, and more and more exaſperated by my Juſtification, ſought all Ways to impriſon me, and by Virtue of ſo doing, to hinder me from performing thoſe Duties I was delegated for the Purſuit of. Among others, my Landlord Mr. *Lun* in defiance of his own voluntary and unask'd Invitation was not the moſt backward to Ruine Me, not only by charging me with a much longer Time than I liv'd with Him, but by making too exorbitant Demands upon

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me, ſuppoſing any Contract to have been made: So that I have been brought to the Unhappy Choice, of either confining my ſelf in my Chamber, or ſubmitting to the Bondage they have prepared for me, the firſt of which Misfortunes I have made my Election.

By theſe Means, I am not only withheld from my own juſt Rights, in having ſeveral Things, which I ſtand much in need of, detain'd in other Men's Hands, but (what is a much greater Affliction) deprived of the Benefit of improving my ſelf by the Converſation of my Learned and Pious Brethren, from whoſe Helps I have often reap'd no Inconſiderable Advantages, which makes me Cry out upon God with *Job* and ſay, *He hath Fenced up my Way that I cannot paſs, and he hath ſet Darkneſs in my Paths.* He hath *put my Brethren far from me, and my Acquaintance are verily Eſtranged from me. My Kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar Friends have forgotten Me.* Oh! that the Divine Majeſty would grant me the Exerciſe of that Holy Mans Patience, as I have taken the Liberty to make uſe of his Words. To

To draw towards a Concluſion. The Miſeries of that Perſon cannot fall ſhort of being compleat, who is denyed the Common Liberties of Mankind; and how Unhappy that Man's Life muſt be, who is encompaſs'd with Terrors and Affrights, and for whoſe Deſtruction his Enemies Day and Night lay wait, there are very few but can Judge. However, I have this to Comfort my ſelf with, that thoſe *that hate me, hate me without a Cauſe*, and that I have hitherto *exerciſed my ſelf to have always a Conſcience void of Offence toward God and toward Man*, yet *of my ſelf I will not Glory but in mine Infirmities*, being always ready to *take Pleaſure in Infirmities, in Reproaches, in Perſecutions, in Diſtreſſes for Chriſt's ſake, for when I am weak, then I am ſtrong*. Nor ſhall my Endeavours be wanting in the Station wherein God has placed me, tho' at preſent the Ill poſture of my Affairs will not ſuffer me to be more than Once a Week with my Auditory at St. *Ann*'s Lecture, wherein for the Inſtruction of ſome well-diſpoſed Chriſtians I am at preſent ſettled, in Oppoſition to ſuch as

having

having the Form of Godlineſs, but denying the Power thereof, creep into Houſes, and led Captive ſilly Women laden with Sin, led away with diverſe Luſts. Theſe *have known my Doctrine, manner of Life, Purpoſe, Faith, Long-ſuffering, Charity, Patience,* and for the Benefit of theſe, am *I ready,* in the Words of the Apoſtle, *to be offer'd up,* having receiv'd my Charge from Him, *to Preach the Word, to be inſtant in Seaſon, out of Seaſon. To Reprove, Rebuke, Exhort, with all Long-Suffering and Doctrine: For the Times are come when ſome will not endure ſound Doctrine, but after their own Luſts heap to themſelves Teachers, having Itching Ears.* Being reſolv'd *to continue in the things which I have learned and been aſſured of, knowing of whom I have learned them* , to be watchful *in all Things, to endure Afflictions, to do the Work of an Evangeliſt, to make full Proof of my Miniſtry.* That I may henceforth ſay with the ſame Bleſſed Apoſtle. *I have fought a good Fight, I have finiſhed my Courſe, I have kept the Faith* : And that *henceforth there may be laid up for me a Crown of Righteouſneſs, which the Lord*

the

the Righteous Judge ſhall give me at that Day: And not to me only, but to all them alſo that love his appearing. Now *unto him, who only hath Immortality, dwelling in the Light which no Man can approach unto, whom no Man hath ſeen or can ſee, to Him be Honour and Power everlaſting,* Amen.

A POSTCRIPT TO THE Lay READER.

HAVING been inform'd ſince this was put to the Preſs, that an Error is grown Popular, in Relation to my not having receiv'd Holy Orders, otherwiſe than from the Hands of the *Diſſenting* Teachers; and that the Lord Biſhop of *London*, was pleas'd to judge thoſe Orders ſufficient of themſelves, to entitle me to the Exerciſe of the Miniſtry in the Church Eſtabliſh'd, I find my ſelf under a Neceſſity

Neceſſity of undeceiving ſuch, as have too greedily ſwallow'd ſo Notorious a Falſhood, by giving a true Copy of that worthy Prelate's Commiſſion to me, to Preach God's Word, and Adminiſter the Holy Sacraments, by Virtue of his Ordination, both in *Latin* and *Engliſh*, as alſo my Letters Teſtimonial from my Patron the E. of *London-derry*.

TENORE Preſentium, Nos *Henricus*, permiſſione divina *London* Epiſcopus, Notum facimus Univerſis, Quod viceſimo nono die menſis *Auguſti*, Anno Domini *Milleſſimo* Septingteſſimo undecimo in Eccleſia Parochiali de *Upminſter*, in Comitatu *Eſſex*, Nos præfatus *Henricus* Epiſcopus ante dictus ſacros Ordines, Dei omnipotentis Præſidio Celebrantes, Dilectum nobis in Chriſto, *Gulielmum Richardſon*, Artium Magiſtrum *Edinburghenſem*, de vita ſua laudabili ac morum et Virtutum ſuarum donis, nobis multipliciter comendatum, ac in bonarum Literarum Studio et Scientia Eruditum, ac ſufficienter intitulatum, et per Examinatorem noſtrum Examinatum et approbatum, in ſacrum Diaconatus Ordinem juxta morem et ritum Ec-

cleſiæ Anglicanæ, in hac parte Salubriter editos et proviſos, admiſimus et promovimus; ipſumque *Gulielmum Richardſon*, in Diaconum, Rite et Canonice Ordinavimus tunc et ibidem. In cujus Rei Teſtimonium, Sigillum noſtrum Epiſcopale præſentibus apponi fecimus; Datis die et Anno prædictis noſtræque Tranſlationis Anno Triceſimo ſexto.

BY Virtue of theſe Preſent Writings, We Henry *by Divine Permiſſion; Biſhop of* London, *make known to all People, That on the Twenty Ninth Day of* Auguſt *in the Year of Our Lord,* 1711. *We the aforeſaid* Henry, *the Biſhop abovemention'd, performing the Office of Holy Ordination, under the Protection of Almighty God, in the Pariſh Church of* Upminſter *in the County of* Eſſex, *have admitted and promoted Our Beloved in Chriſt* William Richardſon, *Maſter of Arts in the Univerſity of* Edinburgh, *abundantly recommended to us by his commendable Way of Living, and the Gifts of Virtue and Good Morals; and throughly inſtructed in, as well as ſufficiently Intituled by, the Study and Knowledge*

ledge of good Letters, and alſo Examin'd and approv'd by our Examiner for that Purpoſe, into Deacons Holy Orders, according to the Manner and Ceremony of the Church of England, *ſet forth and wholeſomely provided for that Purpoſe; And have then and there, as is Cuſtomary, Canonically Inveſted the ſaid* William Richardſon *with the Office of a Deacon. In Teſtimony of which, We have cauſed our Epiſcopal Seal to be affixed to theſe Preſent; Given the Day and Year above mention'd, and in the Thirty Sixth Year of our Tranſlation,*

Henry London.

TENORE Preſentium Nos *Henricus* permiſſione Divina *London* Epiſcopus, notum facimus Univerſis, Quod die Dominico viciſimo tertio ſcilicet die Menſis *Septembris*, Anno Domini *Milleſſimo*, Septingenteſſimo undecimo, in *Capella* intra *Palatium* Noſtrum de *Fulham*, *Middleſex*. Nos præfatus *Henricus*, Epiſcopus antedictus ſacros Ordines, Dei Omnipotentis præſidio, celebrantes Dilectum

Nobis in Christo, *Gulielmum Richardson* in *Artibus Magistrum Edinburghensem* De vita sua laudabili ac morum & Virtutum suarum Donis, Nobis multipliciter Commendatum, & in Bonarum Literarum Studio, & Scientia eruditum & sufficienter Intitulatum, & per Examinatorem nostrum Examinatum, & Approbatum, in Sacrum *Presbyteratus* Ordinem juxta Morem & Ritum Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ in hac parte salubriter editos & provisos Admisimus & Promovimus Ipsumq; in *Presbyterum* rite & canonice Ordinavimus tunc & ibidem. In cujus rei Testimonium sigillum nostrum Episcopale presentibus apponi fecimus, Datis die & Anno prædictis, Nostræq; Translationis Anno Tricesimo Sexto.

BY *Virtue of these Present*, We Henry, *by Divine Permission* Bishop *of* London, *make known to all People, that on the* Lord's-Day, *viz.* the 23d *of* August 1711. *We the aforesaid* Henry, *the Bishop above-mention'd, performing the Office of Holy Ordination by God Almighty's Assistance, in the* Chapel *within*

within our Palace *of* Fulham, *in* Middlesex, *have admitted and promoted our Beloved in Christ* William Richardson, Master of Arts *in the University of* Edinburgh, *abundantly recommended to us, by his commendable Way of Living, and the Gifts of Virtue and Good Morals, and throughly Instructed in, as well as sufficiently Intituled by, the Study and Knowledge of Good Letters, and also examined and approved by our Examiner for that Purpose, into the Order of the Priesthood, according to the Manner and Ceremonies of the Church of* England, *set forth, and wholesomely provided for that End; and have then and there according to the Customary Form, and the Cannons of the Church, ordain'd the said* William Richardson *into the Office of a Priest. In Testimony of which, we have caused our Episcopal Seal to be affixed to these Present. Given the Day and Year above mention'd, and in the* Thirty Sixth *Year of our Translation.*

OMNIBUS Christi fidelibus ad quos hoc presens Scriptum pervenerit, sive, quos infra Scripta tangunt

gunt seu tangere poterint in futurum. Nos prenobilis *Robertus Comes de London-derry* Salutem in Domino Sempiternam; Universitati vestræ notum esse volumus & significamus per presentes quod nos Dilectum nobis in Christo *Galielmum Richardson* Clericum in Artibus magistrum, ob ejus Doctrinam vitæque & morum Integritatem, quibus nobis fide digno Testimonio commendatur in nostrum Capellanum Domesticum & Familiarem juxta vim formam, et effectum, quorundam Statutorum & jurum hujus Regni Hiberniæ pro Capellanis Procorum & Magnatum assumendis Editorum, ascivimus & Admissimus, ut privilegiis & indultis in eo casu editis uti gaudere & frui valeat. In Cujus rei Testimonium, sigillum nostrum ad Arma presentibus apponi mandavimus. Datis apud *London*, nono die mensis *Augusti* Anno Regni Dominæ nostræ Annæ Dei Gratia Magna *Britaniæ*, *Francia*, & Hiberniæ, Reginæ, Fidei Defensoris, *&c.* Annoque Domini, 1712.

London-Derry.

TO *all the Faithful of Chriſt, to whom this preſent Writing ſhall come, or whom the under Written do or may Concern. We the Right Honourable* Robert *Earl of* London-Derry *ſend Greeting. We would have it known, and do ſignifie to your Univerſity by theſe preſent. That We have Choſen and Admitted our Beloved in Chriſt* William Richardſon, *Clerk and Maſter of Arts, for our Domeſtic and* Ordinary Chaplain, *as well in Conſideration of his Learning, as the Integrity of his Life, and the Soundneſs of his Morals, of which he ſtands recommended to us by ſeveral Creditable Teſtimonies, according to the Force, Form and Efficacy of ſeveral Statutes and Laws of the Kingdom of* Ireland, *that are ſet forth for the Choice of Chaplains by the Peers and Lords of Parliament, that he may enjoy the Privileges and Immunities that are allowed in ſuch a Caſe. In Witneſs whereof we have commanded our Seal, bearing our Coat of Arms, to be affixed to theſe Preſent: Given at* London, *on the Nineteenth Day of* Auguſt, *in the Tenth Year of*

of our Lady ANNE, *by the Gra*
of GOD, *of* Great-Britain, Franc
and Ireland, QUEEN, *Defende*
of the Faith, &c. *And in the Yea*
our Lord 1712.

London-Derry

FINIS.